

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 32. (cancelled)

33. (new) A geological formation, wherein the formation comprises at least one of porous materials and particulate materials consolidated with a consolidating agent that is particle-free and comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of (a) one or more organosilanes of formula (I)



wherein the radicals R independently represent non-hydrolysable groups, the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups, and n is 1, 2 or 3, at least one of the one or more organosilanes of formula (I) being an arylsilane; and (b) optionally, one or more hydrolysable silanes of formula (II)



wherein the radicals X are as defined for formula (I).

34. (new) The geological formation of claim 33, wherein the radicals R comprise a phenyl group.

35. (new) The geological formation of claim 33, wherein the agent comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of compounds comprising (a1) an alkylsilane, (a2) an arylsilane, and (b) an orthosilicic ester.

36. (new) The geological formation of claim 35, wherein the agent comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of compounds which comprise methyltriethoxysilane, phenyltriethoxysilane, and tetraethoxysilane.

37. (new) The geological formation of claim 33, wherein the at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate has been prepared in the presence of one or more metal compounds of formula (III)



wherein M is selected from metals of main groups I to VIII and subgroups II to VIII of the Periodic Table of Elements and wherein the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups and two radicals X may be combined to form an oxo group, and a corresponds to the valence of M.

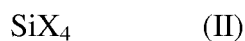
38. (new) The geological formation of claim 33, wherein the formation is oil-bearing and comprises sand.

39. (new) A consolidated material, wherein before consolidation the material is at least one of porous and particulate and wherein the material is consolidated with a consolidating agent

which is particle-free and comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of (a) one or more organosilanes of formula (I)



wherein the radicals R independently represent non-hydrolysable groups, the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups, and n is 1, 2 or 3, at least one of the one or more organosilanes of formula (I) being an arylsilane; and (b) optionally, one or more hydrolysable silanes of formula (II)



wherein the radicals X are as defined for formula (I).

40. (new) The consolidated material of claim 39, wherein the radicals R comprise a phenyl group.

41. (new) The consolidated material of claim 39, wherein the agent comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of compounds comprising (a1) an alkylsilane, (a2) an arylsilane, and (b) an orthosilicic ester.

42. (new) The consolidated material of claim 41, wherein the agent comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of compounds which comprise methyltriethoxysilane, phenyltriethoxysilane, and tetraethoxysilane.

43. (new) The consolidated material of claim 39, wherein the at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate has been prepared in the presence of one or more metal compounds of formula (III)



wherein M is selected from metals of main groups I to VIII and subgroups II to VIII of the Periodic Table of Elements and wherein the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups and two radicals X may be combined to form an oxo group, and a corresponds to the valence of M.

44. (new) The consolidated material of claim 39, wherein before consolidation the material is porous.

45. (new) The consolidated material of claim 44, wherein the material comprises sandstone.

46. (new) The consolidated material of claim 39, wherein the consolidated material is present as a molded article.

47. (new) The consolidated material of claim 46, wherein the material before consolidation comprises sand.

48. (new) The consolidated material of claim 46, wherein the material before consolidation comprises granules.

49. (new) The consolidated material of claim 46, wherein the material before consolidation comprises one or more of glass, a metal powder, a ceramic powder, glass-ceramic, and a cermet.

50. (new) A process for consolidating a geological formation which is at least one of porous and particulate, wherein the process comprises at least one of injecting a consolidation agent into the formation and infiltrating the formation with a consolidation agent and thereafter curing the agent, and wherein the consolidation agent is particle-free and comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of (a) one or more organosilanes of formula (I)



wherein the radicals R independently represent non-hydrolysable groups, the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups, and n is 1, 2 or 3, at least one of the one or more organosilanes of formula (I) being an arylsilane; and (b) optionally, one or more hydrolysable silanes of formula (II)



wherein the radicals X are as defined for formula (I).

51. (new) The process of claim 50, wherein the formation is oil-bearing and comprises sand.

52. (new) A process for consolidating a geological formation, wherein the process comprises introducing cured molded articles into channels within the geological formation, the molded articles made from a material that before consolidation and curing is at least one of porous and particulate and is consolidated with a consolidating agent which is particle-free and

comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of (a) one or more organosilanes of formula (I)



wherein the radicals R independently represent non-hydrolysable groups, the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups, and n is 1, 2 or 3, at least one of the one or more organosilanes of formula (I) being an arylsilane; and (b) optionally, one or more hydrolysable silanes of formula (II)



wherein the radicals X are as defined for formula (I).

53. (new) The process of claim 52, wherein the material comprises sand.

54. (new) The process of claim 52, wherein the material comprises granules.